

SIOUXLAND INTERSTATE METROPOLITAN
PLANNING COUNCIL

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION



**2026 APPLICATION PROCESS
FTA SECTION 5310**

**MOBILITY OF SENIORS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES
SOUTH DAKOTA SERVICE AREA**

DUE DATE: FEBRUARY 13, 2026

RETURN TO:

RYAN BRAUER, REGIONAL PLANNER

SIOUXLAND INTERSTATE METROPOLITAN PLANNING COUNCIL
6401 GORDON DR.
SIOUX CITY, IOWA 51106

OFFICE: 712.224.8915
RYAN@SIMPCO.ORG

Please note that it is not the intention of SIMPCO to complete this Request for Applications for the applicant agency(ies). **This selection process is not an exercise in grantsmanship**, but rather a comparison of project facts.

Projects will be reviewed by the SIMPCO MPO TTC and SIMPCO MPO Policy Board for consideration of recommendation to be submitted to the South Dakota Department of Transportation.

MPO staff will be available to answer any questions about the Request for Applications and offer input to assist you. If you desire additional information or would like to discuss the application, please contact Ryan Brauer via contact information as provided.

2026 FTA SECTION 5310 FUNDING PROCESS OVERVIEW

MOBILITY OF SENIORS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Contact Person

Ryan Brauer, Regional Planner
Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council
6401 Gordon Dr.
Sioux City, Iowa 51106

Office: 712.224.8915
ryan@simpco.org

Purpose

The Section 5310 program is intended to enhance mobility of seniors and individuals with disabilities. The Section 5310 program funds programs to serve the special needs of transit-dependent populations beyond traditional public transportation services and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complementary paratransit services.

Submission

Application cycle opens: January 26, 2026

Applications due: February 13, 2026, 5:00PM

The application may be submitted via mail or hand-delivered to Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council (SIMPCO), 6401 Gordon Dr., Sioux City, Iowa 51106. You may also submit an electronically signed copy of the application to ryan@simpco.org.

Please read this Funding Process Overview before completing the application to best understand the Program and the information that should be included in applications.

Additional pages may be attached to the application as may be needed to address the questions in the application. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted.

Coordinated Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Plan

All projects that are approved for funding must be included in the locally developed, Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan. SIMPCO’s Passenger Transportation Plan for 2025 – 2029 has been recognized as meeting requirements of a coordinated transportation plan. In this context, project means strategy, activity, or action. Please review the strategies identified in the current Passenger Transportation Plan (PTP). The PTP examines transportation needs of certain targeted groups and includes strategies intended to address those needs and ways to coordinate services among the many providers of transportation services and providers of human services.

Eligible Recipients

Applications will be accepted only from organizations which serve Seniors and/or Persons with Disabilities in the South Dakota service area included in the Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council Metropolitan Planning Area as shown in the highlighted portion of the map on page 4. In addition, the South Dakota Management Plan provides that Section 5310 Eligible Subrecipients include:

- Private Nonprofit organizations
- Public organizations/entities approved by SDDOT to coordinate transportation services for seniors and individuals with disabilities. The SDDOT approval process is outlined as follows.

Eligible applicants within the SIMPCO service area are shown on the highlighted portion of the MPO Service Area Map included on page 4.

New Public organization/Entity Approval Process

Per the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) State Management Plan (SMP) a public organization or private entity that has not received Section 5310 funding from the department must be approved by SDDOT and certify to the SDDOT that no nonprofit organizations are readily available to provide transportation services for seniors and individuals with disabilities.

The public organization/entity must submit the following items as part of the request for SDDOT approval.

- Written request for approval must include:
 - Type of transportation provided

- Number of passengers served
- Current and projected ridership
- Coordination efforts with other current transportation providers (past and future)
- By Laws
- Articles of Incorporation
- Mission Statement
- Tax designation

SDDOT will review the request based on the submitted information. Approval will be based on how the entity and their service complies with the SMP, Federal Transportation Administration (FTA), state regulations and the goals of public transportation. In addition, consideration will also include coordination efforts the organization\entity has made to coordinate with other transportation services provided in the service area. Before an organization\entity can be awarded funding for Section 5310 funds, a Human Service Coordination Plan must be submitted and approved by SDDOT. Additional information on the process and requirements can be found in the FTA 5310 circular, with particular attention to Chapter V. The link to the circular:

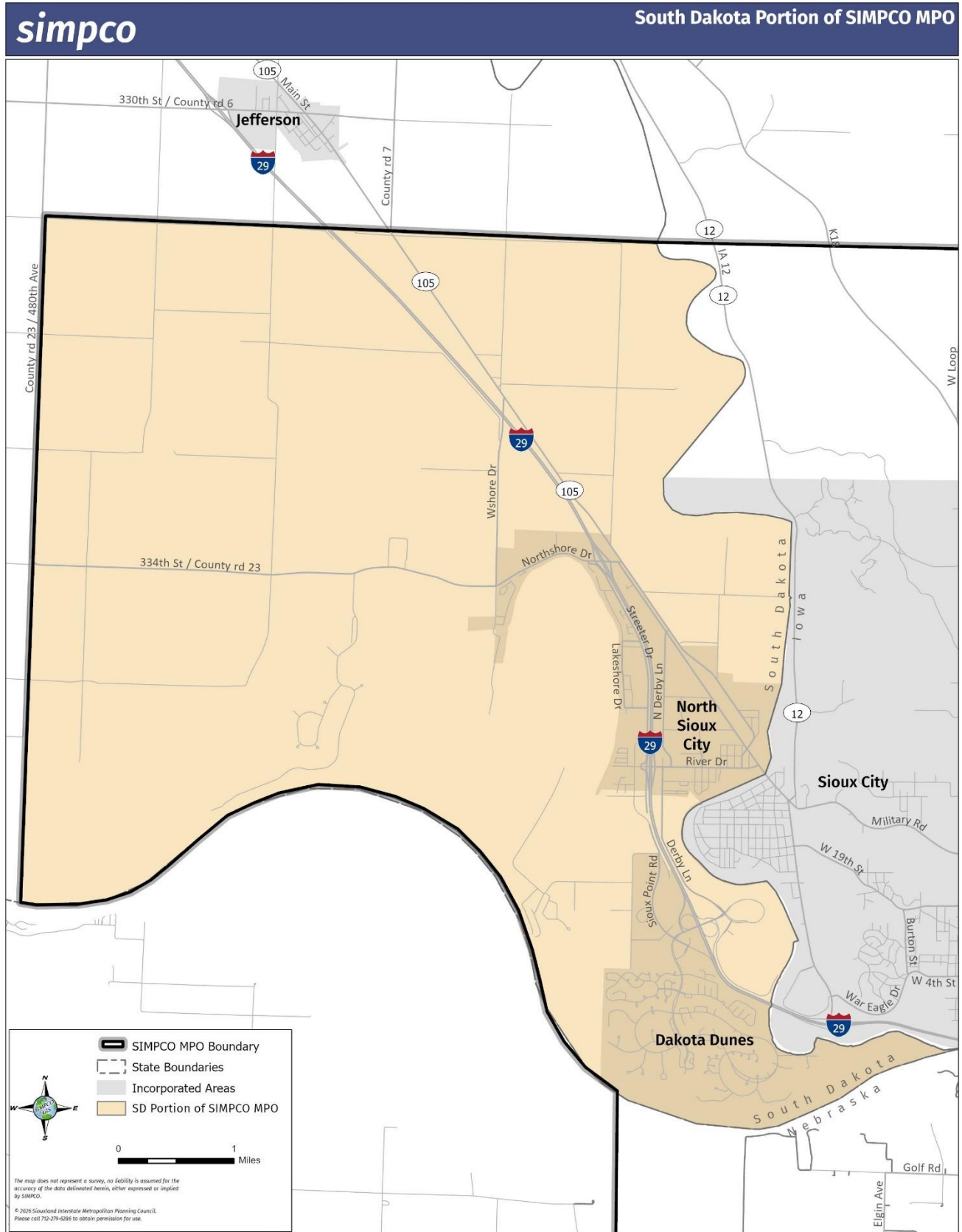
https://www.transit.dot.gov/sites/fta.dot.gov/files/docs/C9070_1G_FINAL_circular_4-20-15%281%29.pdf

SDDOT will perform a subrecipient risk assessment to determine the organization\entity risk for administering federal funds as required by the FTA.

After consideration of all the items listed above, SDDOT will decide and notify the organization\entity whether they have been approved to become a subrecipient.

MPO staff will be available to answer any questions about the Request for Applications and offer input to assist you. If you desire additional information or would like to discuss the application, please contact:

Ryan Brauer, Regional Planner, at 712.224.8915 or ryan@simpco.org



Eligible Section 5310 Activities

The purpose of the Section 5310 Grant Program is to improve mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities by removing barriers to transportation service and expanding transportation mobility options.

Traditional:

- vehicles
- wheelchair lifts, ramps, and securement devices
- transit-related information technology systems
- mobility management programs
- acquisition of transportation services under a contract, lease, or other arrangement
- both capital and operating costs associated with contracted service are eligible capital expenses

Nontraditional:

- travel training
- volunteer driver programs
- building an accessible path to a bus stop, including curb-cuts, sidewalks

These are not exclusive listings. Please note, program specifications originated in preceding transportation program legislation. Under MAP-21, the program was modified to include projects eligible under the former Section 5317 New Freedom program, described as capital and operating expenses for new public transportation services and alternatives beyond those required by the ADA, designed to assist individuals with disabilities and seniors.

Statutory References

Title 49 United States Code., Section 5310 with Federal authorizations and allocations provided in HR 3684 - 484 SS 5338 (a)2(D) and HR 3684 -1010 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) known commonly as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

Project Evaluation

Completed applications submitted on time will be part of a competitive selection process coordinated by SIMPCO.

Projects will be evaluated on the following:

- Supports Passenger Transportation Plan (recognized to meet South Dakota’s standards for a Coordinated Plan) and demonstrates willingness to participate in coordinated activities. The PTP Can be found online [here](https://simpco.org/divisions/transportation-planning/passenger-transportation-plan/) at the following link
(<https://simpco.org/divisions/transportation-planning/passenger-transportation-plan/>)
- Organization’s need for funding of project
- Number of persons served, hours of operation, annual miles, and limitations of service
- Organization’s ability to continue project in the future
- Quality, scope, effectiveness, and sustainability of the project
- Organization’s management capability including experience in managing transportation services
- Efficient use of funds

Funding

The Section 5310 Federal share of eligible capital expenses is 80% of the net project costs and the Federal share of eligible operating expenses is 50% of the net operating costs. A local match of 20% is required for all capital projects, and 50% of the net operating costs for the operating project.

Available funding for this 2026 application round:

Allocation year	Funding amount	Available date	To be designated by
2024	\$14,648	immediate	March 31, 2026
2025	\$15,095	immediate	March 31, 2027

Application

The application should address these issues as applicable:

- Transportation gaps and barriers should either be identified through the locally developed Coordinated Plan or derived from a documented assessment of needs within the designated communities of concern.
- Description of the overall program goals and objectives, showing how the project is consistent with the objectives of the Section 5310 Program
- Description of currently available transportation services

- Description of the specific area the project will service, including pertinent demographic data and/or maps
- How existing resources are being leveraged in support of the project
- How public awareness of the project will be promoted
- Identify clear, measurable, outcome based performance measures to track the effectiveness of the service in meeting the identified goals and the impact the project will have on seniors and/or individuals with disabilities
- Include letters of support from key stakeholders

For projects seeking funds to support program operations, applicants must provide a well- defined service operation plan, including the implementation steps and timelines for carrying out the plan. The service operation plan should include:

- The number of unduplicated persons expected to be served, and the number of trips expected to be provided
- Key personnel assigned to this project and their qualifications
- Organization's ability to carry out the service delivery aspect of the project

For projects seeking funds for capital projects purposes, the applicant must provide a rationale for the use of funds for this purpose, and demonstrate that no other sources of funds are available to meet this need. The application should include:

- An implementation plan and timeline for completing the capital project
- Description of key personnel assigned to this project, and the organization's history with similar types of projects
- Detailed descriptions of vehicles to be acquired and of those being replaced
- Description of the extent and urgency of need for the new vehicle such as age, miles, and condition of current vehicles and how it impacts the services provided
- Provisions to assure the proper maintenance of vehicles
- Provisions to assure the safe operations of vehicles

Proposals should address long-term efforts and identify potential funding sources for sustaining the service beyond the grant period.

Application Budget

Projects must submit a clearly defined project budget. The budget should:

- Indicate the total amount of funds requested for this project
- Indicate the expenditure type or activity line item, and the amount of funds requested for each as applicable
- Include an explanation of the assumptions used to develop the budget, if applicable, such as estimated cost per trip or other unit of service
- Describe proposed efforts to ensure cost effectiveness; applicant should demonstrate how using this funding leverages resources to the maximum possible extent

Project Evaluation

Completed applications submitted on time will be part of a competitive selection process coordinated by SIMPCO.

Projects will be evaluated on the following:

- Supports local Coordinated Plan and demonstrates willingness to participate in coordinated activities
- Organization's need for funding of project
- Number of persons served, hours of operation, annual miles, and limitations of service
- Organization's ability to continue project in the future; the quality, scope, effectiveness, and sustainability of the project
- Quality, scope, effectiveness, and sustainability of the project
- Organization's management capability including experience in managing transportation services
- Efficient use of funds

Project Reporting

If funding is approved for your project, there will be on-going reporting responsibilities. Information such as increases or enhancements that impacted the availability of transportation, individuals served, service miles, coordination efforts, and sustainability may be required. In addition, the funded organization will be required to comply with various federal requirements and federal certifications and assurances such as civil rights, drug and alcohol testing, procurement, and others. These responsibilities and requirements will be outlined through an agreement between the recipient and the South Dakota Department of Transportation.

Section 5310 Program Application Schedule:

Application Announcement: January 26, 2026

Applications Due: February 13, 2026, 5:00 p.m.

Period of SIMPCO MPO's Review, Evaluation, and Approval Process Ends: February 25, 2026

SD Department of Transportation Notification to Applicants: TBD